

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

July/Aug
2020

Changing Lives from the Inside Out

Celebrating freedom in the US seems to be less about true freedom.

On **July 4, 1776**, the 13 colonies claimed their independence from England, an event which eventually led to the formation of the United States. Each year on the **fourth** of **July**, also known as Independence Day, Americans celebrate this historic event. My question is with all of the corruption in the world, the world governments, and even in our own country, what is all of the celebration about? Some of the laws our governor in Virginia is trying to pass and laws some of the parties are trying to pass to keep killing babies, make me feel

Christians are not truly free to live as God intended, that is without stiff persecution from a society who is lost in their sin, and seem to be oblivious to the harm these changes are causing the U.S. These laws will cause God to judge us very harshly for the horrific things being practiced and the harm to human life. The U.S. used to be a Godly nation founded on religious freedom. We now find this country free to practice any religion freely except Christianity. We can mention a God as long as Jesus is never mentioned. Muslim prayers in our public

schools are accepted even after years of trying to disallow Christian prayer and especially the mention of Jesus in any form all together. I do not know about you, but I feel there needs to be much done to redirect our government's values and morals to a Christian based model before I have anything to truly celebrate as to the freedom of our nation. Religious freedom seems to be more and more for every religion other than Christianity, and we need to be quieted as to the name Jesus. The coming of the Lord is nearer today than ever.

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

What is true freedom? Is it the ability to do anything you want and not be questioned as to why? Wouldn't that be a sad state of affairs? In **Judges 17:6** it says, “In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what*

was right in his own eyes.” We can read the book of Judges and see how that worked out for God's people. Freedom that causes hurt or discomfort to someone else is not true freedom. True freedom is freedom from

the power and penalty of sin. Although it is free to us, it was bought with a great price, the blood of the Lord Jesus. Receive Him today and experience freedom, peace, joy and forgiveness. Know the truth of God's Word!

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*In-Prison Ministry
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Support Groups
Pen Pal
Mentoring
Family Ministry
Youth Ministry
Bible studies*

*Ministry training
seminars available for
local churches*

Do we read the Bible and believe until the trials come our way and then lose hope?

The end is near and we need to be ready for what is to come upon the earth before the great tribulation. The Bible has warnings in place for those who read and believe. There have been street corner preachers standing on corners for many years preaching the end is coming, to the point even a lot of Christians have hardened their hearts to the imminent return of our Lord for the church.

Recently there was a world wide panic over a virus. Was it serious? Yes. Was there need for precaution? Yes. Was there need for world wide panic? In my opinion, no. There will, of course, be many who disagree with me, as with just about any thought, about the virus or the soon return of the Lord.

I saw people hoarding food, bleach, hand sanitizer, paper towels, and, of all things, toilet paper, panicked that they would not be able to get out to the store. To lose hope that God is still in charge and sovereign over all that was going on seems a little much for true believers. I am 72 and my health puts me in the category of those who would not do well with the virus and could be more susceptible to catching it. At first I complained about the restrictions put on us by the governor, who I did not have much respect for anyway and

then the president also put sanctions on the people. Then someone reminded me of the Scriptures I have reminded people with so many times in the past, about being obedient to the authorities over us. These directives were not against the will of God, so I should obey.

I did hate not going into the prisons teaching the Bible studies and the gathering of believers on Sunday for worship and praise to God. However, it gave me a small look at what Christians in North Korea and China and many others go through all of the time as they try to worship our Lord Jesus.

Like many people at the time of this writing, I am staying home and many kind and loving brothers and sisters are shopping for me, and I have many concerns about how long this will be going on; with people out of work and the economy suffering so much. Again, I remember reading how when the Jews faced trials in the desert coming to the promised land they murmured and complained and did not pray. I also remember the results of that complaining and I do not want that outcome for us during these trying times, so we need to pray. I pray for this virus situation to be ended and those who caught it healed, of course. However, I

am also praying for God to open my eyes to why He has allowed it to happen and what it is I need to learn while this is going on.

We have seen many kindnesses brought forth from many who might not call themselves Christians, just as we see many people taking advantage of this situation hoarding and reselling items for twice the cost to make a profit. The gas prices are as low as they have been in a long time, but we are not allowed to go anywhere; however, that still helps those who still have jobs and have to drive to and from work every day.

Things could be better, however they will get much worse. I am not a gloom and doom minister, but I have read the Bible cover to cover and I know what is to come. It does not matter how long it has been since these prophecies were made. I trust them to be true. I do happened to be one of many who believe the church will not be here when things get to the worst. If you are one who see things differently and that we will be here during tribulation I give you my permission to tell me, "I told you so." **Pro. 3:5, 6** ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do you know Him?

Pen pals are still plentiful if you want to share God's love and still stay home.

The new pen pal brochure explains how you can e-mail inmates for less than mailing a letter, and some prisons even have a free e-mail system that does not cost either person. Even if it cost \$0.55 to send a letter sharing God's love, isn't worth it? What did Jesus pay to show His love for us? It was far more than \$0.55 I assure you. Do you remember when you first got saved, how you could not wait to tell

everyone about Jesus? What happened? I happen to be one who thinks the fast pace of the world is not a good thing; instant everything. No one wants to hardly call anyone— just send a text. Some are so short you can't figure out what they are trying to say. Visiting friends and family used to be a very enjoyable time, and it still is for many, but others are too busy! I mean too busy period! Many people have their

priorities arranged in such a way that their time is spent on things other than sharing God's love and themselves with others. It does not take a lot of time to write or type a letter or e-mail a message of what God is doing in your life to encourage someone else. The days are close to the coming of the Lord. What are you doing with the time left he is allowing you? Read **Matt 25:15-28**



WHAT DO YOU FEAR AND WHY DO YOU FEAR IT?

Since I write these newsletters ahead of time so the editors can straighten out the grammar and other mistakes, this article is meant to address the corona COVID-19 virus which is going on as I actually write this in March.

At first I was angry with how little many Christians seemed, to me, to trust in the Lord being able to protect us from this virus. People are willing to go to foreign countries where dangerous things are happening all of the time and where Christians are being persecuted and killed regularly. Some go into dangerous prisons and preach the Word. Some stand on street corners in very bad neighborhoods and share the gospel, but many Christians seem to be in a panic over this virus. Of course I know not everyone is panicking, but many who are should not be.

Thanks to several wise Christian friends, I have come to appreciate the importance of being extra cautious, but without panic, and fear, and without judging those who are fearful for what ever reason. My pastor shared many times in his messages to be submissive to the authorities over us, such as when our government strongly suggests not gathering with more than 10 people so churches are closing. I feel there is more behind this virus than just the virus itself. I would not be surprised if someone did not create this virus and purposely allowed it to start this infection for reasons I cannot even imagine. Of course this is just my

thought that came to my mind. I have no evidence of this. I know I see people in the government trying to use the panic of this virus for their own political gain, which does not surprise me at all.

So what are some the answers? 2 Chr. 7:14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." When this virus first appeared, I started praying. However, I almost allowed my own opinion of what people should do and how they should do it, to cause me to not realize God works in people's lives differently and everyone does not see things the same way. One lady started mentioning how many unsaved people seem to be doing good for many. If that draws them to Jesus then that is great. If not the good they are doing is only good in the eyes of society.

I have seen, first hand for the first time in my life, what it is like to be ordered to stay home, not to gather with more than ten people, and be given a list of reasons I can leave the house limited to what the government see as rational. I now have more compassion and sympathy for countries like North Korea, China, and many Muslim dominated countries where Christians face death, not a fine, for gathering for any kind of worship. I thank God for having patience with me when I start off on

my soap box about the wrongs of society or our government in the restrictions, and I thank good brothers and sisters for encouraging me with fortifying Scripture as to the right way to look at things when I am not in agreement. Isn't it a shame, no matter how Spiritually sound one might be, that they sometimes need to be reminded **God is sovereign**? He knows how this virus started, how long it will continue, who it will affect, and who will die from it. Having that assurance soundly in my heart, my responsibility is to be obedient, conscious, praying, using my time wisely to receive anything God is trying to show me, and to fear not for God is with me. Deut 31:6 "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he [it is] that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." While this verse has a specific meaning in this context, throughout Scripture God encourages His children to fear not. The words fear not are used 144 time in the King James Bible. So all I am saying is love and trust the Lord with all your heart **Matt 22:37-40** ³⁷Jesus said to him, " **You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**" ³⁸"This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹"And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰"On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (Pro. 3:5)

We never want you to think we do not appreciate you all.

I want to, once again, thank all of you who pray for us regularly, those who ask about the ministry from time to time, and give us a chance to share what God is doing. Prayers are very valuable and help just as much as financial offerings. So if you can only pray, do it as often as you feel the need. Your prayers have kept us going to going into our 33rd year. I want to thank my board members, who keep this ministry accountable as well as

our overseer and all of those we make ourselves accountable to. I want to thank those who take their valuable time to edit the newsletters and other important letters which make them more professional. I certainly want to praise God for all of you, and for the many pen pals writing the many inmates all over the USA and one foreign country. See? This ministry would not exist with out all of you, and it would not have lasted as long without you all.

I also thank the 1000s of inmates who have been touched by God through various prison ministries and how I was encouraged by several of those ministries to start this ministry along with the call of God. I thank all of the inmates who really care how my health is and pray DAILY for me and seem to be excited to study God's word with me. I also thank the many prisons I have been approved to serve the Lord in, even if there are only two presently.

JULY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <small>Independence Day</small>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUG 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	26	26	27	28	29

Red numbers on Mondays, Wednesday evenings I ministry Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons.
Blue is the day I preach at the Holiness Church in Schuyler.

Mission Statement:

To establish and strengthen the Christian life of inmates and their families by providing opportunities for worship, instruction, nurturing of children, fellowship, service, mutual aid, brotherly counsel, and to establish and strengthen the Christian life of evangelism. To bring the Gospel to the unsaved and to lead them to faith in Christ followed by membership in the body of Christ.

All donations of any kind are tax deductible under United States Code Section 170(c)(2).

All giving constitutes your express agreement to relinquish control in accordance with IRS regulation.”
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Inmate corner quizzes and answers and poems from inmates

Answers to May/June

1. Rock (Matt. 7:24)
2. Rain, flood, wind (Matt. 7:25)
3. Authority (Matt. 7:29)
4. Leprosy (Matt. 8:3)
5. His servant (Matt. 8:6)
6. A Roman centurion (Matt. 8:10)
7. Peter (Matt. 8:14)
8. Fever (Matt. 8:14)
9. Her hand (Matt. 8:15)
10. She got up and waited on Jesus (Matt. 8:15)

- 3.) In Matthew 8, how many demon-possessed men met Jesus in the region of Gadarenes?
- 4.) Where did those demon-possessed men live?
- 5.) Into what herd of animals did Jesus cast the demons?
- 6.) After Jesus healed the demon-possessed men, what did the town want Jesus to do?
- 7.) What did Jesus do first to the paralyzed man that caused the teachers to call Jesus a blasphemer?
- 8.) What did Jesus tell the healed man to pick up and go home?
- 9.) What was Matthew sitting in when Jesus called?
- 10.) What two groups of people did Matthew 9:10 say were eating with Jesus and the disciples?

Question for July/Aug

- 1.) According to Jesus, what two animals have homes, but He, the Son of Man, had no place to lay His head?
- 2.) What was Jesus doing in the boat when the storm struck?

Wings of Prayer

Just open your eyes and close
Your heart, Just feel your
cares
And worries depart.

Just yield yourself to
The Father above, And let
Him hold you secure in
His love.

For life on Earth,
Grows more painless
involved,
With endless problems,
That man can't solve.

But God only as You
To do Your best, And then
He will step in and finish
The rest.

So when You're tired,
discouraged
And blue, there is always a
door
Open for you.

And that door is to the
House of prayers, And you
Will find God just waiting
To meet you there.

The house of prayers is no
farther
Away than the quite little spot
Where you kneel, and pray,

For the heart is a
Temple, when God is there
As we place ourselves
In His loving care.

God will hear and answer
All of your prayers, as
You pray in His name
May Thou wilt be done
And the burdens that

Seems so hard to bear
Are lifted on the wings
Of prayers.

This poem is from one of the
many inmates writing me as a
pen pal.